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on your amendment this morning.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I spoke to you yesterday when Senator Tyson had an amendment before us telling you that I had already filed an amendment to look at the university budget, and the reason that I am bringing this before you was because, in fact, we found a greater hole in our gap between the revenue proposal and the appropriations proposal. This morning in the paper they are saying that they have narrowed it down. They believe that there is an 8 million dollar gap that we have to fill. The proposal before you here actually strikes \$427 million, which is the proposal from the Appropriations Committee, to the university for this upcoming year, and inserts \$423 million. It's a difference of 400 or \$4.4 million. It is 1 percent more. The Appropriations Committee proposed a cut of 1 percent. The Governor proposed 3 percent. This is a compromise between the two. This is a 2 percent cut. Now why am I bringing this before you other than the fact that we still have a gap. Well, I'm bringing it because I also passed out to you the General Fund financial status. You've seen it before. We've talked about it in some of our informal meetings, but I want you to look at the highlighted figure under the Biennial 2004-05 and you see in the out-years that we project a deficit of \$410 million. So if you think that we can leave the Chamber this year by only coming in with a rate increase on income taxes or on sales taxes, and perhaps upping another \$100 million in tax income into our budget, in fact, you see that in the out-years that's not enough. We are not going to solve it here. We can't cut our way out of this and we will be back here again next year when we look at the budget looking at more severe cuts and more tax increases. So I think that we have to look at the spending side and ask ourselves if we can sustain the growth rate that is projected. Now on those...the financial status that is before you, look at the growth factors that are down there in the box, the second box from the bottom. They are projecting an annual change in growth, budget growth, of 5.8 percent. In fact, if you look up increases, you see under Appropriations, line 21, projected budget increases in the next biennium in that out-year of 2004-05, \$323 million in growth. Why? Because it is based on a percentage of growth based on the year before, based on the